

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of Southern
California Gas Company for Authority Pursuant
to Pub. Util. Code § 851 to Sell Certain Real
Property in Playa del Rey, California (U 904 G)

Application 99-05-029
(Filed May 12, 1999)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING SCHEDULING A PREHEARING
CONFERENCE FOR SCHEDULING EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS**

Summary

A Prehearing Conference (PHC) is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's Los Angeles courtroom, 320 West 4th Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, California.

Discussion

On May 12, 1999, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) filed an application to value and sell 36 unimproved lots, 34 in Playa del Rey and 2 in Marina del Rey and for approval of an additional 48 lots that had been sold between 1950 and 1998. In its application SoCalGas sought authority to sell these lots because they were not "necessary or useful" to the gas company's Playa del Rey gas storage facility. Twelve of these lots are over abandoned and capped oil or gas wells that were once used as observation or monitoring wells for the gas storage facility.

The 34 lots in Playa del Rey are scattered throughout the long established residential neighborhood of Playa del Rey and sit atop a bluff overlooking the Ballona Wetlands and Marina del Rey. These lots surround the upper site of

SoCalGas' Playa del Rey Trap Gas Storage Facility. The two lots in Marina del Rey are located in a residential neighborhood on the coastal side of the Marina Peninsula.

The Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) filed a response to the application urging the Commission to ensure that the ratepayers, and not just SoCalGas shareholders, shared from the gain on sale. The Utility Reform Network filed a protest raising similar gain on sale allocation issues as ORA. In addition, protests were filed by the Grassroots Coalition, Friends of Animals, Ballona Wetlands Forever, Spirit of the Sage Council and Bernard Endres (collectively Grassroots). The gravamen of the Grassroots protest was that SoCalGas should not be allowed to sell these lots because the gas company needs to have access to the lots to monitor for gas leaks, to repair or recap the wells and to provide a buffer between the wells and the residential homes in the area. SoCalGas filed a reply to the protests.

The Commission determined that an analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was required to guide the Commission's decision on the application.

On February 11, 2005, the Commission issued a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for consideration of SoCalGas's application to sell 34 lots in Playa del Rey and 2 lots in Marina del Rey. The Commission now wants to schedule evidentiary hearings to create a record on the adequacy of the FEIR. If the FEIR is certified as compliant with CEQA, the Commission can then issue a Decision on SoCalGas' application to sell the 36 lots.

Prehearing Conference

To facilitate the scheduling of the evidentiary hearings (EH) a PHC is set for May 10, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's Los Angeles Courtroom.

Parties are asked to come to the PHC prepared to discuss how much testimony they intend to serve, the subjects the testimony will address, the number of witnesses that will be testifying, and how much cross-examination is anticipated. In summary, parties are to estimate how much hearing time will be required and convenient dates for the hearing.

In addition to setting the EH dates, dates for the service of testimony and rebuttal testimony will also be established. Parties should also be prepared to discuss how many documents each party anticipates using and a schedule and procedure for an early exchange of those documents.

Once the dates for the EHs are established, the parties are also to pick a date for a telephonic, or in-person, meet-and-confer, approximately 7-10 days in advance of the start of the EHs, for the parties to discuss availability of witnesses and other scheduling issues to facilitate the use of the hearing time. The first day of hearings will begin at 10:00 a.m., with one break in the morning, a lunch break, and one afternoon break with an anticipated end time of 4:00 p.m. The start and end time of the successive hearing dates can be adjusted to accommodate the parties, witness' and the Commission's needs.

Following the PHC, the assigned Administrative Law Judge will issue a ruling memorializing the established dates for service of testimony and EHs and setting forth the hearing room rules for the EHs.

IT IS ORDERED that:

A prehearing conference is set for Tuesday, May 10, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's Los Angeles courtroom , 320 West 4th Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, California, to

establish dates for the service of testimony, evidentiary hearings (EH) and other issues related to the conduct of the EHs.

Dated April 27, 2005, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CAROL A. BROWN

Carol A. Brown
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this day served the attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Scheduling a Prehearing Conference for Scheduling Evidentiary Hearings on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record by electronic mail to those who provided electronic mail addresses, and by U.S. mail.

Dated April 27, 2005, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ ELIZABETH LEWIS
Elizabeth Lewis

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.